



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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For more information please visit: [International Scientific Cooperation](#)



Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) working together to support the FAO Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources

On July 21, 2008 Jaye Shuttleworth, Director, and Thomas Balint, Senior Policy Advisor, Environment and Energy Division, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT), visited Drs. Yvon Martel and Brad Fraleigh, International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), to discuss departments' respective roles and responsibilities in regards to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. DFAIT contributes financially to the Treaty and provides expertise to the Canadian delegation by participating in meetings of the Treaty's Governing Body. For DFAIT, it is important that departments such as AAFC take the lead on initiatives that are crucial to Canadian producers and industries. The Treaty is important for both departments. AAFC and DFAIT are pleased to work together to prepare Canada's participation in the next meeting of the Governing Body to be held in June 2009.

Photo: Brad Fraleigh, Yvon Martel, Jaye Shuttleworth and Thomas Balint
Contact: Brad Fraleigh



Chilian Ambassador Promotes Scientific Cooperation in Agriculture with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

Following the interest of Chile in research cooperation with AAFC, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in 2005 with INIA (Chilian Institute for Agricultural Research). Last June, a declaration was signed between the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of Chile, covering an MOU on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation. One identified key area for cooperation is the agriculture and food sector.

On July 17, 2008, Ambassador Ortega and Mr. Hector Vera visited AAFC to discuss cooperation in agricultural research as a priority between Research Branch and INIA. Dr. Johanne Boisvert, ISCB, AAFC, Mrs. Maria Rodriguez, Market and Industry Services Branch (MISB), AAFC and Dr. Carlos Monreal, Research Scientist, Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre (ECORC), AAFC, joined the discussion hosted by Dr. Yvon Martel, ISCB, AAFC.

Chilian Ambassador Ortega visited the Central Experimental Farm (CEF) on July 24th and was planning to visit several other AAFC Research Centres across Canada in the following months. It is also expected that managers of INIA will visit AAFC to define the initiatives that could be established in the next year.



Photo: Maria Rodriguez, Yvon Martel, Johanne Boisvert, Eugenio Ortega; Hector Vera, Carlos Monreal

Contact: Johanne Boisvert



Regions of China interested in similar Canadian regions for training and collaboration

The province of Heilongjiang in north-eastern China has climate and agronomic conditions similar in many aspects to those in Ontario and Québec. This is what attracted Lai Bin Guo, Director General of Economic development at the State Farms, a Chinese national enterprise comprising one agricultural university, one research academy and 115 farms which is the Chinese number 1 agriculture complex, based in Heilongjiang province, PRC.

Mr. Guo, who attended a six month training session at Toronto York University from March to August 2008, recently visited ISCB, AAFC, to promote the State Farms' interest to collaborate in science and innovation with AAFC. Canada is the first foreign country with whom the State Farm is preparing an MOU for international S&T cooperation. Innovation has become an attractive initial focus for establishing relations between Chinese national enterprises and the Canadian public and private sector.



Photo: Jianqiang (Joe) Zhou, Yvon Martel, Lai Bin Guo, Johanne Boisvert

Contact: Joe Zhou

Progress Made in Controlling Fusarium in Winter Wheat

Wheat and cereals are important crops for Canada and controlling fusarium is critical to ensuring the future success of these commodities on the world market. On July 10th, 2008, Dr. Radhey Pandeya, AAFC Research Scientist and Acting Program Coordinator, and Mr. André Kalikililo, AAFC Research Technician, explained the state of the art on fusarium control on winter wheat to Chief Scientist, International, Dr. Yvon Martel and to Science Centres Director General, Dr. Gilles Saindon. Clearly, progress has been made.

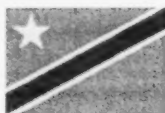
Producing seed with better traits is now a "big business" worldwide, with the value of the global

seed market in 2007 estimated at some \$35 billion US according to the July 2008 edition of Germination Magazine. It added that delivering innovation is expensive. Bringing one variety of fusarium-tolerant winter wheat to market cost over \$900,000 and took nine years.



Photo: André Kalikililo, Radhey Pandeya, Yvon Martel, Gilles Saindon

Contact: Yvon Martel



Training Congolese interns in food sanitation and safety outreach

As part of the cooperation between Canada and the Democratic Republic of Congo, AAFC's Food Research and Development Centre in Saint-Hyacinthe welcomed two Congolese communicators, Yembe Demagdale and Bomboko Bongwala, for training on food sanitation from May 23 to June 27, 2008. This internship, which was among the recommendations stemming from the June 2007 symposium in Kinshasa on food safety and processing, aimed to allow Congolese youth to familiarize themselves with common communication techniques in food sanitation and safety. With support from the Direction de la qualité et des services à la clientèle (DQSC) under the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec [Ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food] (MAPAQ), and more specifically the support and encouragement of Mr. Guy Caron, acting assistant deputy-minister, MAPAQ, his executive assistant, Mrs Geneviève Rousseau, Mrs Andrée Bernard, director, DQSC, and Mrs Isabelle Trudeau, her executive assistant, the interns learned how to design food safety outreach kits for the population, based on material developed by MAPAQ. At the end of their training, the interns said that there were very impressed by the welcome they received and the quality of supervision and learning tools made available to them. They said that they did not feel the dreaded Canadian cold, but that they were instead warmed by everyone's hospitality. After the interns returned to Kinshasa, the Congolese government, in partnership with the Banque internationale pour l'Afrique au Congo (BIAC), provided funding to the two communicators for them to print outreach documents about food safety in the country.

Photo: MAPAQ welcomes the interns. Seated, from left to right: Yembe Demagdale, Bomboko Bongwaia, Guy Caron, Isabelle Trudeau, Maf Akier Assanta. Standing, left to right: Andrée Bernard and Geneviève Rousseau

Contact: Maf Akier Assanta



European Institute of Technology

Agreement reached on a new European Institute of Innovation and Technology

At a meeting of the Competitiveness Council in late November 2007, ministers agreed to set up the European Institute of Technology (EIT) as proposed by the European Commission. The institution was subsequently renamed the 'European Institute of Innovation and Technology', however, the acronym of 'EIT' remains unchanged.

The European Council's common position was approved by the European Parliament in March of 2008 and the Headquarters' location will be in Hungary. The EIT is expected to begin functioning in the summer of 2008. The selection of the Governing Board of the EIT has been announced July 30, 2008 and it will begin the selection process of either two or three 'Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs) to be launched by the end of 2009. The KICs will include organizations such as universities and research organizations as well as the private sector, all of which will work together on relevant projects autonomously from the Governing Board. Budapest has been chosen as the seat of the EIT and the inaugural meeting of the newly appointed Governing Board will take place on September 15, 2008.

Visit the *EIT* is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/eit/index_en.htm

Contact: Carole Morneau



Tax breaks to stimulate innovation in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries

Among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), more and more governments are providing businesses with tax breaks in order to stimulate innovation. According to the latest OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard (8th edition), two-thirds of these countries provided tax subsidies to businesses in 2006, up from 12 in 1995. There has also been a trend towards making the subsidies more generous. In Europe, Spain and Portugal provide the largest subsidies, making little distinction between small firms and larger companies, in contrast with the Netherlands that tend to offer more generous subsidies to small companies.

More generally, public policies promoting innovation are progressively being reoriented from subsidies and procurement to alternative instruments such as R&D tax relief and reinforcement of industry-university linkages (university patenting is increasing in most OECD countries). While total gross expenditure on R&D outpaced GDP growth in real terms between 1995 and 2001, growing by 4.6% annually, it has grown by less than 2.2% per year between 2001 and 2005, coming in line with GDP growth.

The scoreboard also records that there were 3.9 million researchers in OECD countries in 2005, of which two thirds were employed by the business sector. In the EU, only one in two researchers is working in the private sector. Besides, there is a sharp rise in the globalisation of innovation which has become an increasingly collaborative endeavour and diffuses more rapidly because of new information technologies. International co-authorship of scientific publications tripled between 1995 and 2005, while cross-border cooperation on inventions nearly doubled as a share of total inventions worldwide between the periods 1991-93 and 2001-03.

Please visit the *Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2007* for more information.

Contact: Carole Morneau



Industrial Symposium and Trade Fair on Applied Microencapsulation (Brussels, Belgium)

The Bioencapsulation Research Group (BRG) is organizing a symposium and trade fair on applied microencapsulation, which will be held from February 3-5, 2009, in Brussels (Belgium). This event is an opportunity for participants to get up-to-date information on microencapsulation, meet industrial leaders, find new partners, suppliers of R&D services, products, materials and equipments, as well as licence or advertise new technologies.

The symposium will cover topics and areas such as "micro- vs. nano- encapsulation," "encapsulation in the agri-food sector," "encapsulation and health care," "chemicals vs. biocatalyst encapsulation" and "microencapsulation in our daily life."

For more information and to register, please visit: *Industrial Symposium and Trade Fair on Applied Microencapsulation*.

Contact: Carole Morneau

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